

Fact Sheet, May 2009



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Cleanup Plan for Proposed South Region Middle School #3 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed South Region Middle School #3** (Site) is available for public review and comment. Lead, arsenic, cadmium, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site which is located at 7500 Marbrisa Avenue in the Walnut Park community. The Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil, since the contaminants are located underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscape. Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium, PAH, and OCPs contamination can cause adverse health effects. In order to protect future students and staff of the new school, the DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place prior to construction of the new school and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Contamination from cadmium, arsenic, and PAH is likely the result of historic and current activities at the site. Lead-based paint is possibly the sources for the identified lead. The historical application of insecticides for termites is likely the source for OCP contamination around the residential properties.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for More Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

May 21, 2009 – June 22, 2009

The draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. The DTSC will make a final decision on the RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by June 22, 2009**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573



History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site is a 5.37-acre rectangular-shaped area consisting of 35 parcels, including 15 single-family residential properties, 11 multi-family residential properties, and commercial/light industrial buildings including a restaurant/club, tire repair facility, appliance repair facility, smog-check test-only station, a truck and auto repair facility, and two multi-unit retail buildings housing a bakery, barber shop/beauty salon, real estate office, cell phone sales, and retail auto parts (*see map on page 4*). The site is bordered by a narrow alley and residential properties to the north, Santa Fe Avenue to the east, Walnut Terrace to the south, and Marbrisa Avenue to the west. The site has historically been comprised of mixed land use consisting of residential, commercial, and light industrial properties; similar to the site's current use.

Environmental Investigations

A preliminary environmental investigation (PEA) was conducted in 2008. The investigations found elevated levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium, PAH, and OCPs in shallow soil that require cleanup. During the investigations, elevated levels of contaminated soil were detected at depths up to approximately three feet below ground surface at 31 parcels around the site. Based on the results and recommendations of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at 31 of 35 parcels.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Excavation and Offsite Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is permanent, and has a reasonable cost. If this alternative is approved, an estimated 840 cubic yards (1,260 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean import fill or site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the summer of

2009 and will take approximately 4-5 days to complete.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

If approved, about 56 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will exit the site by traveling north on Marbrisa Avenue, turning right (east) on Florence Avenue, and merging onto the Long Beach Freeway (I-710). The soil will be lawfully transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment. This is due to the removal's short duration, its relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the RAW prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name

and address. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Middle School #3 site are available for review at the following locations:

Gage Middle School

Main Office
2880 East Gage Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255
Phone: (323) 826-1500

Walnut Park Elementary School

Main Office
2642 Olive Street
Huntington Park, CA 90255
Phone: (323) 588-3145

Middleton Elementary School

Main Office
6537 Malabar Street
Huntington Park, CA 90255
Phone: (323) 582-6387

Florence Library

Reference Desk
1610 East Florence Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001
Phone: (323) 567-8853
Hours: Mon.: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tues. – Wed.: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thurs. – Sat.: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun.: Closed

Huntington Park Library

Reference Desk
6518 Miles Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255
Phone: (323) 583-1461
Hours: Mon. – Tues.: 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wed. – Thurs.: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Fri.: Closed
Sat.: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sun: Closed

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Contact: Tony Espinoza, (213) 893-7409
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday
Site documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site:

www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5337, Julie Johnson for appt.
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Juan Osornio
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5498
josornio@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the project.

DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. The DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Proposed South Region Middle School #3



Legend

- Proposed School Site Boundary
- Existing Property Boundary
- Existing or Former Building
- Proposed Soil Removal Area



Not to Scale